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Sanitary report from Nome, Alaska—Smallpox at Port Safety.

NOME, ALASKA, *August 25, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that there is now only 1 patient at the smallpox detention hospital. He is about well, and will be discharged the first part of next week.

A few days ago Dr. Lloyd saw in one of the local papers a reference to a case of smallpox in the Indian village near the Nome River Barracks, which is about 4 miles from here. This morning we visited the barracks, and later the village. The acting assistant surgeon in charge at the barracks reported that during the night of the 16th instant a canoe containing 8 Indians arrived at the village from Port Safety. One of them was a child, whom he found to have a well-developed case of smallpox, and whom he immediately isolated. He also isolated and vaccinated the 7 others, and being unable to find out how much communication there had been with the village, vaccinated all its inhabitants. The vaccine, however, proved to be worthless, so I sent him this afternoon material for 500 vaccinations, for which he will give me a receipt. Port Safety is about 20 miles east of here, and I have directed Dr. Lloyd to proceed there and trace, as far as possible, the source of this case and of any others he may be advised of.

The practicing physicians of the town and vicinity have had under treatment during the past week the following number of cases: Typhoid fever, 26; pneumonia, 15; dysentery, 10; bronchitis, 8; tonsilitis, 8; tuberculosis, 4; intermittent malarial fever, 3; rheumatism, 3; measles, 2; pleurisy, 1, and anthrax, 1. There were 2 deaths during the week, 1 of pneumonia and 1 of cerebral embolism. Reports of destitution, much sickness, and a great percentage of deaths among the aborigines come in with every vessel from all points along the Alaskan coast, as well as from the Siberian coast, the diseases seeming to be principally measles, pneumonia, and influenza.

The temperature continues mild and with the exception of two rainy days the weather has been clear and fine during the week just ended.

Respectfully,

BAYLIS H. EARLE,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

History of smallpox at Nome, Alaska.

NOME, ALASKA, *September 1, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the last case of smallpox was discharged from the detention hospital on Sunday, the 26th ultimo, and that the tents, buildings, and all things used therein were destroyed by fire on Tuesday, the 28th ultimo, under the immediate supervision of Drs. Hornsby and Ostrom, appointees of Lieutenant Jarvis. I inclose a copy of the report of the cases treated, made to Lieutenant Jarvis by Dr. H. C. Ostrom, the physician in charge of the hospital. Much credit is due Lieutenant Jarvis and his able assistant, Dr. S. J. Cole, but especially the former, for the prompt and effective measures taken to stamp out what at one time threatened to be a fearful epidemic.

According to directions, a copy of which I inclose, Assistant Surgeon Lloyd left on horseback for Port Safety the morning of the 29th ultimo.

The practicing physicians of the town and vicinity have had under treatment during the past week the following number of cases: Typhoid fever, 27; acute dysentery, 22; pneumonia, 11; tonsilitis, 8; bronchitis, 7; rheumatism, 7; measles, 4; tuberculosis, 3; intermittent

malarial fever, 2; pleurisy, 2, and anthrax, 1. There were 2 deaths during the week, both of pneumonia.

The temperature continues mild, and, with the exception of two rainy days, the weather has been clear and fine during the week just ended.

Respectfully,

BAYLIS H. EARLE,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

[Inclosure.]

NOME, ALASKA, *August 28, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following summary from the record of the smallpox hospital at this station:

The total number of patients received was 24; number of deaths, 1; number discharged, 23. All the varieties of smallpox were represented: Variola hæmorrhagica, 1; variola confluens, 1; variola discreta, 19; varioloid, 3.

Of these cases 19 were directly traced from 2 cases which developed on the steamship *Oregon* during her passage from Seattle to this port; 1 traced indirectly to the same source; 2 were traced from Dawson City, and 2 received their contagion from steamship *Ohio*.

According to the evidence of the patients (19) who were passengers on the steamship *Oregon*, those who were in charge of the steamship were guilty of gross mismanagement. Mrs. W. W. was taken sick shortly before reaching Dutch Harbor, the eruption appearing while at that port (about May 28). Her husband was taken sick about a week later. Although the cases were diagnosed smallpox by the ship's surgeon, nothing was done to isolate them until a few hours before reaching Nome, when they were rather insufficiently isolated, without guard or warning, in the smoking room. Upon arriving at Nome on July 13, the major portion of the passengers were forced ashore during the night, the reason being given by the officers that on account of having smallpox on board they would be liable to be sent into quarantine.

The cases coming from the steamship *Ohio* were also due to mismanagement. The *Ohio* upon arriving at Seattle from San Francisco had 2 cases of smallpox on board. These were taken off and isolated there, the officers of the ship being notified by Health Officer McKechnie as to the nature of the disease. The ship with no disinfection proceeded to this place; 2 cases developing on the way were put in quarantine at Egg Island and 2 cases at this hospital developing after landing here. * * *

Respectfully,

H. C. OSTROM, M. D.,
Physician in Charge of Hospital.

I certify that this is a true copy.

BAYLIS H. EARLE,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

D. H. JARVIS,
First Lieutenant, R. C. S., Nome, Alaska.

Arrival at Baltimore of vessels from West Indian, Mexican, Central and South American ports.

BALTIMORE, MD., *September 1, 1900.*

SIR: The following-named vessels have entered at this port from West Indian and South American ports during the week ended September 1, 1900: August 28, British steamship *Oxus*, from Port Antonio, with fruit; British steamship *Ely*, from Port Antonio, with fruit. August 30, British steamship *Barnstable*, from Bocas del Toro, with fruit.

Respectfully,

WM. F. STONE,
Collector.

BALTIMORE, MD., *September 22, 1900.*

SIR: The following-named vessels entered at this port, from the ports named, during the week ended this day: September 17, British steamship *Oxus*, from Port Antonio, with fruit; Norwegian steamship *Kong Frode*, from Port Antonio, with fruit. September 19, British steamship *Barnstable*, from Bocas del Toro, with fruit; British steamship *Lady Lewis*, from Daiquiri, Cuba, with iron ore; British steamship *Trevilly*,